

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA



Welcome to the January Issue of OUR TOWN

We hope you all had a good time over the holidays. Our January issue is packed full of updates on a number of Town Projects including Hale and planning Dover Town Center. We have events to keep you busy and active in the winter months from the Library, Parks and Recreation and the COA and we have a new section on the history of Dover. (Thank you to Dover Historical society for providing this and future facts from our history).

Thank you for continuing to read our newsletter and keeping up to date with what is going on in 'Our Town'. If your goal for the new year is to keep more up to date with your town or volunteer for a project or committee you'll find what you need to know right here.

If you are part of a Town board/committee/commission and would like to submit content for the February issue, please contact Ruth Townsend at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com.

VOL. 2, NO.1, JANUARY 2023

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

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 **SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER** 

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in one easy step.

**NEW! Easy way to
sign up for this newsletter and
other important news!
Tell a friend in Dover**



Board of Selectmen

Update on Hale

In 2019 Hale approached the Board of Selectmen (BOS) in both Dover and Westwood with the opportunity to permanently conserve the approximately 1,100 acres owned by Hale Education. As a result of this conversation, the Dover BOS formed the The Hale Partnership Task Force (HPTF) to focus on understanding the proposal and making a recommendation to the Board.

Last Spring, at the recommendation of the HPTF, the BOS continued to move forward with defining and investigating the acquisition of a Conservation Restriction (CR) from Hale on its roughly 650 acres in Dover.



Large sign with trees and leaves around it

With a CR, Hale would continue to own, use and maintain the land, but Hale could not subdivide or develop the land. Land uses at Hale would be restricted and public access to large portions would be guaranteed. The CR would be held by a partnership between the Town and the Trustees of Reservations. The Trustees would be primarily responsible for monitoring and enforcing the CR. Westwood would have a similar CR on their over 500 acre portion of Hale, also in partnership with the Trustees, should they decide to move forward with funding a CR on the land located in Westwood. With CRs on Hale's combined 1,100 acres and abutting Trustees, Town and Dover Land Conservation Trust reservations, over 2,300 acres of contiguous open space would be protected from development forever.

Over the summer, a smaller group began working on the specific terms within the CR with Hale. The group consisted of John Jeffries from the BOS, Amey Moot from HPTF, Rob Warren from the Trustees and Chris Dwelley, the Town Administrator. In addition, Chris Dwelley and John Jeffries met frequently with their counterparts in Westwood. The CR terms are now being reviewed by the Town Admin. and Town Counsel.

The Board plans to begin a communication effort in the new year to share the details of the proposed conservation restriction with the community. This would be accompanied by public information sessions so that the community's questions may be answered.

Fiber Network Project

Dover received \$114,000 in State grant funds to install a municipal fiber network in the center of Town. Intended to connect all of the municipal buildings in the town center, the fiber network will increase broadband speeds in municipal buildings, provide broadband connectivity redundancy, and allow for enhanced and improved public wifi access. The Board of Selectmen have entered into a contract with Comm-Tract, a leading municipal fiber installation company, to do this work. Given supply chain constraints, we anticipate this work beginning in the Summer of 2023. More information on this effort can be found [here](#).



You can contact the Board of Selectmen about these matters and others and also find information on their meetings and how to join by Zoom by clicking [here](#)



Board of Selectmen cont.

Meet the Team

Each month we highlight a member of our team, what they do, and what projects they're working on. This month we'd like to introduce you to Jason Belmonte, Health Agent.

Jason, a registered Sanitarian with 5+ years experience working in public health, started here in Dover in November, joining us from Dennis Health Department. Prior to Dennis, Jason was with Westwood Health Dept. and he began his career in public health as a Food Safety Coordinator at Wegmans. Jason is excited to be joining the team here in Dover as the inaugural Health Agent, and is looking forward to growing and developing the town's public health program.

Contact Jason at jbelmonte@doverma.gov or call on 603-285-2915



Ask me about....

- Septics
- Housing
- Food
- Pools

- Wells
- Covid/ flu
- Ticks
- Animal Keeping

..and many other things

Planning Board

Village Center Visioning Project:

Residents discussing
Dover Village Center

The Planning Board will be bringing to the 5/1/23 Town Meeting zoning bylaw recommendations, based upon a cohesive vision, that will help protect and enhance our Village Center.

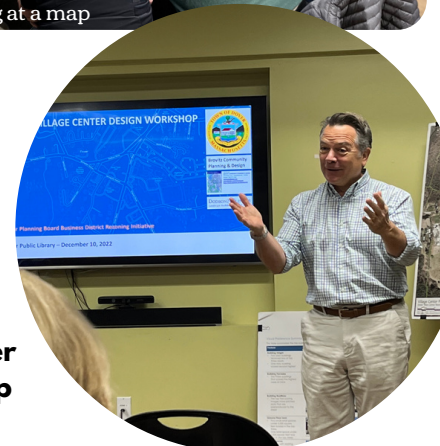
Following up on the Visioning Survey from 2021, the Planning Board held an open hearing on 12/10 attended by 22 residents to receive additional input.

Their consultants worked with teams to explore the Center's current conditions, strengths, and opportunities. The conversation was dynamic, thoughtful, and extremely helpful. The presentation can be viewed [here](#). They will be continuing outreach to Town residents and community groups, and welcome direct conversations with you.

Their next scheduled event is with the Council on Aging on Tuesday January 24 10 am in the Great Hall in the Dover Town House.



Group of adults seated around a table looking at a map



**Bill Motley,
Planning Board Member
presenting at workshop
for residents.**

Man speaking by a TV screen

Schools

Chickering

Chickering School celebrated with two musical performances in December: a fifth grade band and convocation and our Festival of Lights singalong. At the convocation, fifth grade students sang a series of songs that connected with the book, *Journey*. The Festival of Lights all school singalong, featured songs of some festivals that occur between October and December: Diwali, Hanukkah, Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.



Group of children singing in a school with adults seated watching.

In the spirit of giving, students created cards for all Dover town employees and shared them in mid-December.

They continue in their academic endeavors as well, with students growing their reading and writing skills and depth of understanding. Students use a mix of traditional text as well as digital resources to read and to listen to the text. Younger students have access via iPads and older students use Chromebooks. Thanks to these technologies Chickering's students are learning responsible digital citizenship

High School Athletics

The winter season is off and running! Dover Sherborn have 268 student athletes participating across 13 teams this season. All teams have started with a majority of wins!

For all results click [here](#).



**Winter Captains
2022/ 2023**

Group of teenagers standing in a school gym

Schools cont.

Minuteman High School Accepting Applications for 2023-24 School Year

Minuteman High School in Lexington is now accepting applications for students who will be in ninth grade in the fall of 2023. Dover is a member of the Minuteman regional school district. Students with an interest in any of Minuteman's 19 career technical education programs are strongly encouraged to apply!



The priority deadline to apply is February 15.

Along with award-winning academics, Minuteman's CTE programs include animal science, automotive, biotechnology, carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts, design and visual communications, electrical wiring, engineering, environmental science, health assisting, multimedia, programming and web development, welding, and others.

For information about evening tours and the admissions process, [click here](#).

Town Report

The Town Report Committee Seeks Your Photos!

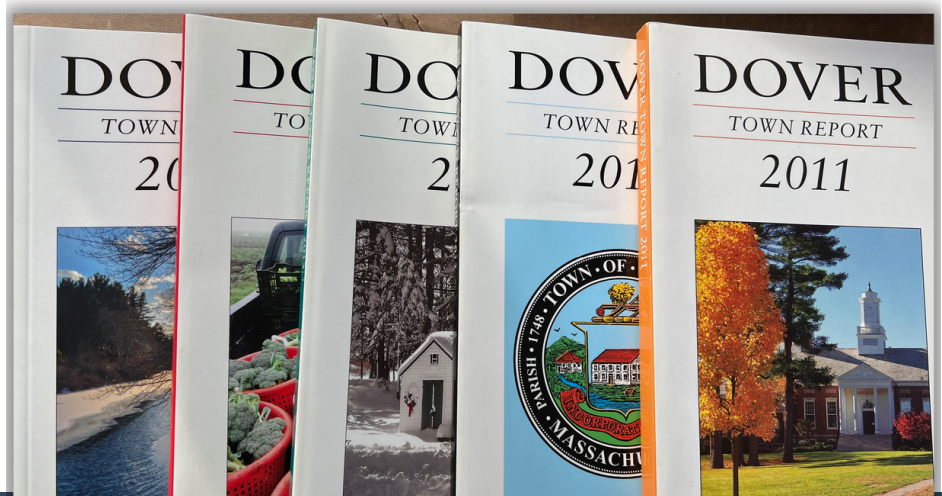
The Town Report Committee has begun production on the 2022 Dover Town Report, and they're looking forward to this year's new crop of photo submissions! Your images can be a part of the town's official historical record!

What do they publish? They select Dover-based photographs that showcase our great town and complement the individual town reports, so themes can include landscapes, domestic and wild animal life, general nature (including macro shots), buildings and other architecture, school events (sports, band and theater performances, volunteer work, robotics, etc.), and 2022-held town events (ice-skating at Channing Pond, Library Spelling Bee, COA programs, summer concerts, Dover Days Fair, Powisset Farm, etc.). For inspiration, please visit past reports [HERE](#) on our Town Report archive page.

You don't need an expensive camera to participate! Cellphone shots are acceptable, as long as the images are properly exposed and in focus. They will also consider drone shots. When uploading photos from your phone or laptop, please choose the largest available file size you have (usually about 3MB if shot by phone; larger if taken with an DSLR camera). For the best chance of having your image chosen for the report's color cover, the photo should be able to accommodate a 4 x 4.5 ("square-ish") crop.

The deadline for submission is February 10, 2023. Feel free to email any questions to Mary Kalamaras at DoverTownPics@Gmail.com or call 301-535-4566. Remember, the Dover Town Report wouldn't be the same without your involvement and great images, so thank you for participating!

Copies of town report book from different years



Dover History

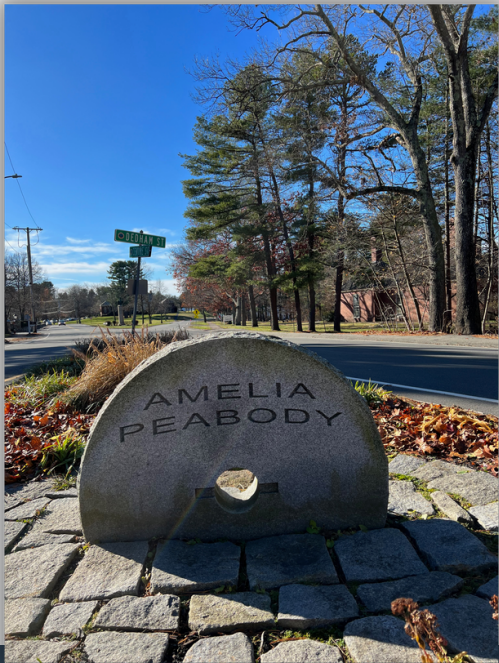
Welcome to the new Dover History Section and thank you to Betty Brady and the Dover Historical Society for providing us with this piece of history from our own town. If you passed the stone with the name Ameila Peabody on it at the junction of Dedham St and Centre St and wondered who she was, read on.

AMELIA PEABODY 1890 - 1984

Amelia Peabody's Powisset Farm, Mill Farm and Noanet Woodlands became important parts of hunting in Dover. She was first attracted to the area by the Hunt and purchased her land only after hunting it. She rode regularly in the fields for 30 years. Her horse was recognizable by its white browband.

After she stopped hunting she loved to watch the hounds, the horses and her friends. As a final gesture to the community, in her will she left almost all her land to the Trustees of Reservations thus perpetuating enjoyment of nearly 1000 acres of woodlands in Dover.

Half Circle stone on cobbles with name on it.



Library

Animals of the Desert vs. Rainforest

**Wednesday,
January 11th @ 2:00pm**

Join Joy Marzoff from **Joys of Nature** to learn how all animals have special adaptations to survive in their habitats. Meet some live desert and rainforest animals up close, and learn about how their wild relatives survive.

Best for kids ages 5+.
No registration needed.

News letter



Join the Dover Town Library mailing list by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Library's website

Parks and Recreation

ART & AFFIRMATIONS:

Creativity and Self-Love Workshop

Taught by: Paulina Teng of PT
Color Market

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

(early release day)

12:45 - 2:00pm

\$58/ participant

REGISTER HERE on the
Parks & Recreation Online
Registration Portal!



Collection of images of a woman, art projects, hands together in circle

This workshop is all about getting your middle-schooler to think about themselves in different and positive ways by identifying their unique characteristics and celebrating them!

Led by Paulina Teng, co-owner of PT Color Market, where she designs and makes her own unique, handmade leather and wood jewelry and other custom goods.

Paulina's creative nature and background in professional education (with over 10 years of teaching experience in the Needham Public Schools!) will draw out your child's inner strength and self pride through creative expression, motivational support and encouragement!

What you will do in this workshop:

- Discuss what Self Love is and what it can look like, then make mini-journals for brainstorming empowering words and playing with strong sentencing to create artistically journaled personal affirmations of our own!
- Using our favorite journaled affirmations, we will then create and decorate a personal affirmation board that can be used at home to help your child find encouragement through their own words and the strength to celebrate themselves!
- Finally, as a personal token and reminder of the importance of self-love and care, each child will make a one strand leather bracelet with (or without!) a charm to connect each member of the group to one another and the memories they made together!

Parks and Recreation cont.

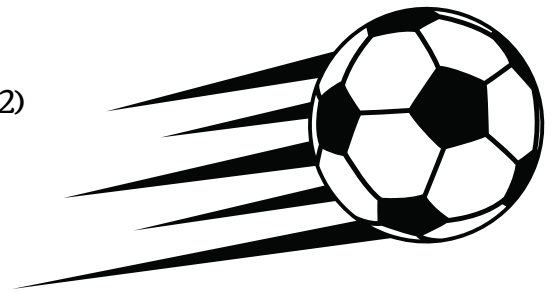


Group of children and coaches on indoor soccer pitch with soccer balls

It's time to REGISTER HERE for the second session of Winter PROformance Soccer Training!

One of the leading soccer training programs in Massachusetts, PROformance Soccer's core philosophies are derived through playing, coaching and learning from some of the most respected clubs and brightest minds from around the world of soccer.

Aimed at teaching key technical soccer skills, each winter session of PROformance will consist of a limited number of players working closely with instructors on skill work; and small, sided games for real-life skill application. The age-specific curriculum is designed to be instructional as well as fun, so that players are able to learn and develop fundamental soccer skills, while inspiring love and enthusiasm for the game!



SESSION 2: Wednesdays, February 1 - March 29, 2023 (not held 2/22)

- K - 2nd grade COED 5:00 - 6:00pm
- 3rd - 5th grade GIRLS 6:00 - 7:00pm
- 3rd - 5th grade BOYS 7:00 - 8:00pm

Held indoors in the Tenacre School Gymnasium, \$205/ participant/ 8-week session
REGISTER HERE on the Parks & Recreation Online Registration Portal!

COA

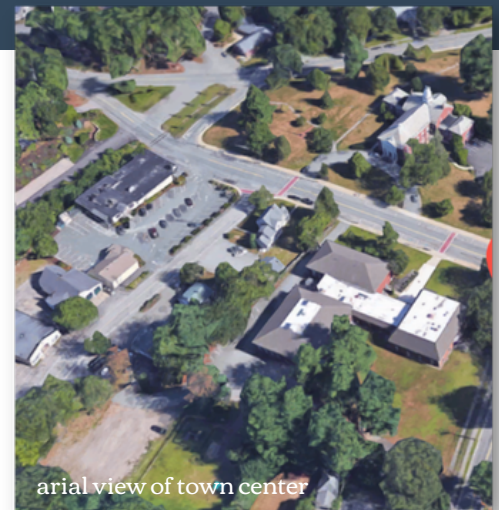
Happy New Year from the COA!

There are a number of exciting programs in January.

The Talk with the Town series continues with two events this month:

Meet with Police Chief McGowan on Wed, Jan 18 at 10am in the Great Hall at Dover Town House.

And on Tues, Jan 24 at 10am in the Great Hall, join the Planning Board to discuss the Village Center Visioning Project and to give input into bylaw changes to be presented at the May 1, 2023 Town Meeting



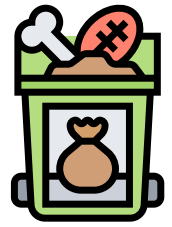
For a complete list of programs in January and February - including fitness, cultural, educational, social events, and more - see the COA program calendar [HERE](#).

Recycling Committee



The Dover Recycling Committee (DRC) announces guidelines for recycling during the holiday season to encourage residents to continue to reduce, reuse, recycle and conserve town funds.

FOOD WASTE: Residents should bag and dispose ALL food waste including turkey carcasses, lobster shells, egg shells, all bones, fruits and vegetables by placing them in the barrels for residential food scraps next to the compost area. Food must be bagged. Items that are NOT acceptable are recyclables, cooking oil, yard waste, boxes, cups and cartons.

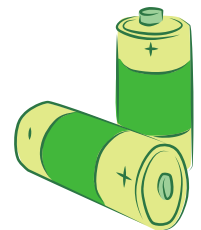


WRAPPING PAPER: DON'T THROW IT IN THE MIXED PAPER TRAILER. It belongs in the regular trash since it is chemically treated with fire retardant and can't be recycled. Buy wrapping paper made from recycled materials.

CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS AND PLANTS: Strip all ornaments, tinsel and wires and put in the yard waste section.

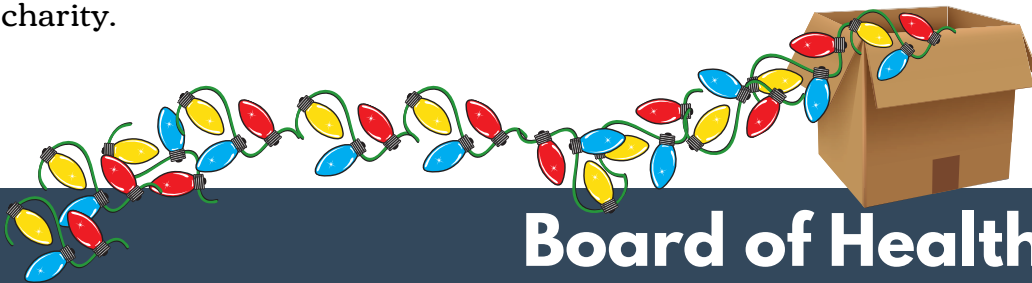


HOLIDAY TANGLERS: Keep holiday tangles out of your recycling. String decorations like holiday lights and tinsel may look good on trees, but they create a mess once inside recycling facilities. Malfunctioning lights and tinsel should be thrown into the trash.



BATTERIES: Alkaline batteries should be thrown in the regular trash. Non-Alkaline and button batteries should be given to the Transfer Station personnel.

CARDBOARD BOXES: Breakdown and flatten all boxes, remove plastic liners and Styrofoam. Offer sturdy cardboard boxes to neighbors on Nextdoor.com and Freecycle.com, sites used to find or dispose of free moving boxes. Explore givebackbox.com to donate household goods and clothing you no longer need to charity.



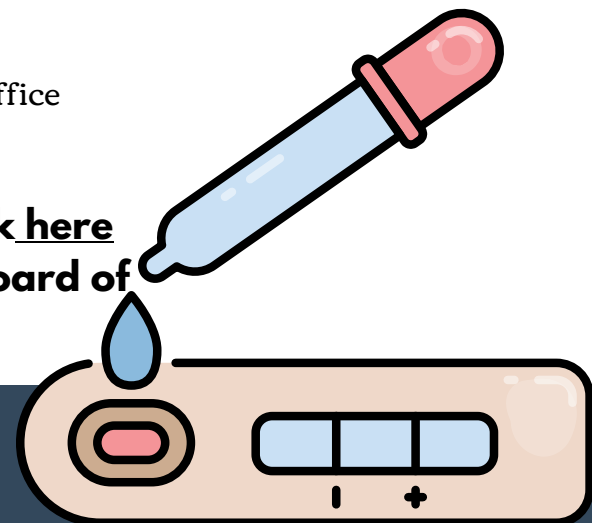
THANK YOU!

Board of Health

Free Covid Tests

Free COVID-19 rapid test kits are available in the Board of Health office Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM for Dover residents.

Did you know the Town has a COVID-19 page? [Click here](#) for the most up-to-date COVID-19 news from the Board of Health.



December Quick Links

Interested in serving on a volunteer

➔ board/committee/commission? Click to learn about the process and vacant positions.

LEARN MORE



➔ Learn about the new Water Restriction Bylaw and Water Restriction Enforcement Bylaw Policy.

LEARN MORE



Want to contribute to February's newsletter?

Please submit content to Ruth at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com

by January 15.



Click below to stay updated on Town news

